

MEMO

DATE: April 3, 2014
TO: Mike Brienzo, MPO
FROM: Brian Praeuner, StarTran
RE: JARC project selection changes under MAP 21

Report on Job Access Reverse Commute (JARC) Program Changes under MAP 21

Since 2006 the Lincoln MPO was designated as the recipient for two SAFETEA-LU Federal Transit Administration Programs: 1) Job Access Reverse Commute (JARC) and 2) New Freedom Program. Lincoln's role under SAFETEA-LU with the JARC and New Freedom program was to 1) establish a Project Selection Task Force under the guidance of the MPO Technical Committee and develop a Coordinated Plan, 2) solicit project proposals and select projects, and 3) administer and provide oversight for the grants as the designated recipient of JARC and New Freedom Funds.

MAP 21 eliminated the JARC Program and is now an eligible activity under the FTA Section 5307 Urbanized Area Formula Program. StarTran receives Section 5307 formula funding on an annual basis. MAP 21 also allows the selection of projects to follow a maintenance process whereby existing JARC projects would not adhere to a competitive selection process. StarTran will utilize this maintenance process to continue to funding current JARC programs. The 2014-15 StarTran TIP identifies the funding of these projects as follows:

1. StarTran - funding of 2 JARC bus routes that serve low-income persons to access employment and job training opportunities - \$75,000
 2. Center for People in Need – Driver Voucher Program - \$16,000
 3. Lincoln Literacy Council – Transportation Services for New Americans Preparing for Work Entry - \$10,000
- Total JARC Funds: \$101,000

The distribution of funds is based on past distribution formulas with a reduction in JARC funding and the need to sustain the operation these projects.

A job access reverse commute project is a “transportation project to finance planning, capital, and operating costs that support the development and maintenance of transportation services designed to transport welfare recipients and eligible low-income individuals to and from jobs and activities related to their employment, including transportation projects that facilitate the provision of public transportation services from urbanized areas and rural areas to suburban employment locations—49 U.S.C. 5302(9).”

cc: Mike Davis & Scott Tharnish, StarTran

